

What is claimed is:

1. A method for interfacing with a backup or restore client application, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

5 presenting a user with a generic user interface for performing a dialogue; and
using information acquired in the dialogue for configuring for or performing a backup or restore operation.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface is created using data structures created by function calls that are part of an application program interface.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data structures are shared by more than one application program interface.

15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward configuring a client application for the backup or restore operation.

20 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the more than one application program interface includes an application program interface that is directed toward interfacing with a client application for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward browsing a client application for objects to configure for or for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface (GUI).

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface is a command line interface (CLI).

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the GUI is created using data structures created by function calls that are part of an application program interface.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the data structures are shared by more than one application program interface.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward configuring a client application for the backup or restore operation.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the more than one application program interface includes an application program interface that is directed toward interfacing with a client application for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

5 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward browsing a client application for objects to configure for or for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

10 14. A system comprising:
a data storage system including at least one storage device;
a computer system including a client application in communication with the data storage system;
a backup or restore server in communication with the computer system and the
15 data storage system; and
computer-executable logic in communication with the computer system and backup or restore server that enables the method steps of:
presenting a user with a generic user interface for performing a dialogue and
using information acquired in the dialogue for configuring for or performing a backup or
20 restore operation.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the user interface is created using data structures created by function calls that are part of an application program interface.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the data structures are shared by more than one
5 application program interface.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward configuring a client application for the backup or restore operation.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the more than one application program interface includes an application program interface that is directed toward interfacing with a client application for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward browsing a client application for objects to configure for or for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface (GUI).

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the user interface is a command line interface (CLI).

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the GUI is created using data structures created
5 by function calls that are part of an application program interface.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the data structures are shared by more than one application program interface.

10 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward configuring a client application for the backup or restore operation.

15 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the more than one application program interface includes an application program interface that is directed toward interfacing with a client application for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

20 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the more than one application program interface include an application program interface that is directed toward browsing a client application for objects to configure for or for carrying out the backup or restore operation.

27. A program product for use with a data storage system including at least one storage device and a computer system including a client application in communication with the data storage system and a backup or restore server being, the product being comprised of:

5 computer-executable logic contained on a computer-readable medium and which is configured for enabling the following steps:

presenting a user with a generic user interface for performing a dialogue and using information acquired in the dialogue for configuring for or performing a backup or restore operation.

10 28. The program product of claim 27, wherein the user interface is created using data structures created by function calls that are part of an application program interface.

15 29. The program product of claim 28, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface.